

Manisha Juthani, MD Commissioner



Ned Lamont Governor Susan Bysiewicz Lt. Governor

ORDER

WHEREAS, pursuant to <u>Public Act 22-81</u>, section 32(a)(13)(B)(ii) (hereinafter the Act), specified health care providers appropriately licensed, certified or registered in another state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia, may deliver health care or other health services via telehealth as defined in section 32 (a)(12) of the Act to patients in this State when authorized by an order issued by the Commissioner of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 33 of the Act, the Commissioner of Public Health may issue such an order which may be of limited duration and limited to one or more types of providers described in section 32(a)(13)(B)(ii) of the Act and be subject to conditions imposed by the Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, according to the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there is a shortage of mental health professionals in each county in the State of Connecticut and there is a significant need for the expansion of the mental and behavioral healthcare workforce in Connecticut to meet unmet mental health professional needs; and

WHEREAS, according to the <u>National Institute of Mental Health</u>, the provision of mental health services delivered by telehealth can be effective for some patients.

NOW THEREFORE, in accord with the provisions of section 33 of the Act, I hereby authorize the following health care providers appropriately licensed, certified or registered in another state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia to deliver mental health and behavioral health care and services via telehealth subject to the limitations and conditions set forth herein:

1. This Order authorizes the provision of mental health and behavioral health care and services via telehealth to patients in this State by psychologists, marital and family therapists, marital and family therapy associates, clinical social workers, master social workers, alcohol and drug counselors, professional counselors, behavior analysts, physicians certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, advance practice registered nurses who are certified by the American Nurses Association as a Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioners; and physician assistants with a Certificate of Added Qualifications in Psychiatry from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (collectively referenced hereinafter as "out of state telehealth providers").

Authorization provided under this Order for the provision of mental health and behavioral health care and services via telehealth to patients in this State by out of state telehealth providers is contingent upon compliance with all the requirements set forth herein.



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- 2. All out of state telehealth providers' license, certification or registration shall be in good standing with the issuing government authority. For the purposes of this Order, good standing means the providers' license, certification or registration (i) has not been subject to disciplinary action similar to an action specified in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-17(a), (ii) surrendered while under suspension, discipline or investigation by a licensing authority or surrendered following an arrest, or (iii) subject to a pending disciplinary action or unresolved complaint before the duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of any state, the District of Columbia, a United States possession or territory, or a foreign jurisdiction. In addition, an out of state telehealth provider who is on the List of Excluded Individuals/Entities maintained by the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is excluded from providing telehealth services under this Order.
- 3. All out of state telehealth providers shall maintain professional liability insurance, or other indemnity against liability for professional malpractice, in an amount that is equal to or greater than that required for similarly licensed, certified or registered Connecticut health care provider.
- 4. All out of state telehealth providers shall comply with federal and Connecticut law applicable to the provision of telehealth as defined in in section 32 (a)(12) of the Act.
- 5. Prior to providing telehealth services authorized under this Order, all out of state telehealth providers shall enroll electronically with the Department of Public Health via online portal at https://dphsubmissions.ct.gov/TelehealthRegistration. Authorization to provide telehealth services under this Order is not effective until the accurate completion of said enrollment.
- 6. All out of state telehealth providers shall (i) submit an application to the Department of Public Health for licensure, certification or registration under Connecticut law for the practice of their profession within thirty (30) days of enrolling with the Department and complete all steps necessary for such application no later than ninety (90) days from the submission of the application or (ii) as applicable, secure authorization within one hundred twenty (120) days of enrolling with the Department to provide telehealth services in Connecticut pursuant to the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact, (Pubic Act 22-81, sec. 42), or pursuant to Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, (Pubic Act 22-81, sec. 43).
- 7. The provision of mental or behavioral health care through the use of telehealth shall be within such out of state telehealth provider's scope of practice and in accordance with the standard of care applicable to the provider's profession.
- 8. This Order shall expire on September 30, 2023, unless terminated sooner by the undersigned.

Commissioner